

FREDERICK W. VANDERBILT GARDEN ASSOCIATION, INC.

*News Release*

March 31, 2011

Contact: Suzanne Gillespie  
845-473-5957 or sgillespie@hvc.rr.com

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**VANDERBILT GARDEN ASSOCIATION**  
**HOSTS GUIDED TOURS OF THE FORMAL GARDENS**

The Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association, Inc. will continue the program begun in 2010 of offering free tours of the formal gardens at the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site, Route 9, Hyde Park, NY.

Tours are approximately 30 minutes long and will be offered beginning at **2:00 P.M.** and concluding at **4:00 P.M.** on the **third Sunday of each month**, as follows:

*Sunday, July 17, 2011*

*Sunday, August 21, 2011*

*Sunday, September 18, 2011 (1:00 tour also offered)*

*Sunday, October 16, 2011*

On the tours, the Vanderbilt interpreter-guides will discuss the history of the gardens, including the Vanderbilt ownership, and the on-going work by the Vanderbilt Garden Association, a group formed in 1984 to rehabilitate and maintain the plants, shrubs and trees planted in the gardens.

Again this year, Greeters will be in the gardens every Saturday and Sunday afternoon (weather permitting), from April 17 through October 16, to talk to visitors, answer questions and give out information about the gardens and the Vanderbilt Garden Association.

Something that is new this year: the National Park Service will offer free interpretive tours, *"200 Years of Landscape History at Hyde Park,"* on the same Sunday afternoons that the Formal Garden tours are offered. Visitors desiring to take the NPS tour should meet the NPS interpreter at the Visitors' Parking Area at 2:00 P.M. These tours will conclude at the Formal Gardens where visitors then may join one of the guided tours there.

All visitors should park in the designated parking area near the Visitor Center. Those wishing to visit the Formal Gardens should walk down to the gardens, which are located south of the Mansion. Follow the gravel path that begins on the south side of the Mansion. Tours will be cancelled if it rains on Sunday afternoon. If the weather is doubtful, please telephone beforehand either the Association at 845-229-6432 or the Vanderbilt Visitors' Center at 845-229-7770.

For additional information or questions about the garden tours, please call or Email Suzanne Gillespie at 845-473-5957 or [sgillespie@hvc.rr.com](mailto:sgillespie@hvc.rr.com).

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